



N.O.W. News

Voi. 50 No. 1

Spring 2012

Numismatists of Wisconsin



*“Luck is what happens when
preparation meets opportunity”*



Numismatists of Wisconsin

is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.

Contributions are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual NOW convention.

Numismatists of Wisconsin holds Life Memberships in the American Numismatic Association and Central States Numismatic Society.

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NOW News Deadlines

February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1

Numismatists of Wisconsin &

Madison Coin Club's

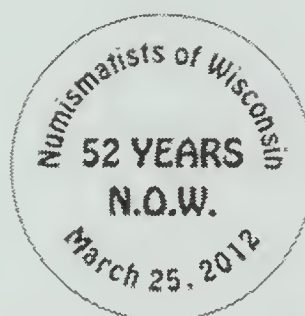
80th Anniversary Coin Show

Sunday, March 25, 2012

at Sheraton Hotel

706 John Nolen Drive

Madison, WI



Free wooden nickle
to everyone attending



Buy
Sell
Trade
Browse

Free Parking
Free Admission
Free Appraisals

Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mystery Dinner Saturday Evening

Everyone welcome

Meet at 6:00 p.m.
in the Sheraton Hotel lobby



ANA News

National Coin Week

April 15-21, 2012

**Find out how money has changed
throughout history**

The American Numismatic Association invites you to get involved in National Coin Week. "Change In Money: Cowries to Credit Cards" is the theme for this year's event, and the ANA is holding activities focusing on how money has changed throughout history and the innovations that have allowed those changes to occur.

Participating clubs receive a promotional package with educational materials, buttons, bookmarks and more. To register your club for the trivia challenge and receive a National Coin Week kit, e-mail ncw@money.org with your club name, ANA number and mailing address. For more information send an e-mail to ncw@money.org. or visit www.money.org.

* * *

*With
Sympathy*

Bert Bressett

We recently received word of the passing on February 12th of Bert Bressett. Bert married Ken Bressett in 1950 and they have two sons and one daughter. She was well known in the numismatic hobby and it would be hard to find a more friendly, congenial, honest and family-oriented person.

We first met Bert & Ken some years back when Ken was working at Whitman Publishing in Racine. We always enjoyed seeing and talking with them whenever our

paths crossed at coin shows and other events. Bert always greeted us with a hug and asked how we were doing — our conversations centered on family, the numismatic hobby and how other numismatists were doing.

Bert was a strong supporter for her husband when he worked for Whitman, as an ANA employee and board member, convention chairman, researcher, publisher and author.

When Bert received the Numismatic News Ambassador Award in 1999 at the ANA convention, a comment was made that her specialty in numismatics was "people". It's been said that she "collected friends" and truer words have never been said about anyone — few in the hobby had a collection of as many friends as she did. Bert was one of the hobby's best representatives and was a great supporter of the ANA. For over 60 years she was a collector, and an ANA National Volunteer, assisting with pre-registration, banquet registrations or any other place as needed.

For Bert's dedication to the numismatic hobby, she not only received the coveted Numismatic News Ambassador Award in 1999, but also from the ANA, a President's Award in July, 2001, in 1993 the Medal of Merit and the Farran Zerbe in 1998.

The last time we saw Bert was at an ANA Summer Seminar some years back. Although she was sick, she smiled and talked about everyone else and how they were doing.

In remembering Bert and her life, Winston Churchill said it best: "We make a living by what we get, and we make a life by what we give."

*With sincere sympathy.
John & Nancy Wilson*

.Central States Numismatic Society

April 17-21, 2012

The 73rd Anniversary Convention of the Central States Numismatic Society is just around the corner. The event will be held at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive in Schaumburg.

A complete schedule of events can be found on the CSNA website www.centralstate.info.



Coin Club News

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

The annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 31st. Jon Williams is coordinating the clinic and speakers will be Leon Saryan, Dave Hunsicker, Lee Hartz and Roger Lick. Lee Hartz is liaison with the Boy Scout Council.

MNS president, Leon Saryan frequently receives random inquiries from people who have coin collections to sell or are trying to identify old coins. Leon helps them evaluate what they have and steers them to reputable dealers where they can get a fair offer. Leon says "as members, we are all ambassadors for the hobby. Spread the word and encourage your friends and acquaintances to become better informed about coins and paper money."

* * *

South Shore Coin Club

The club's coin show is March 29-31. Show chairman, Walter Weiss, has 48 dealers signed up for the upcoming show.

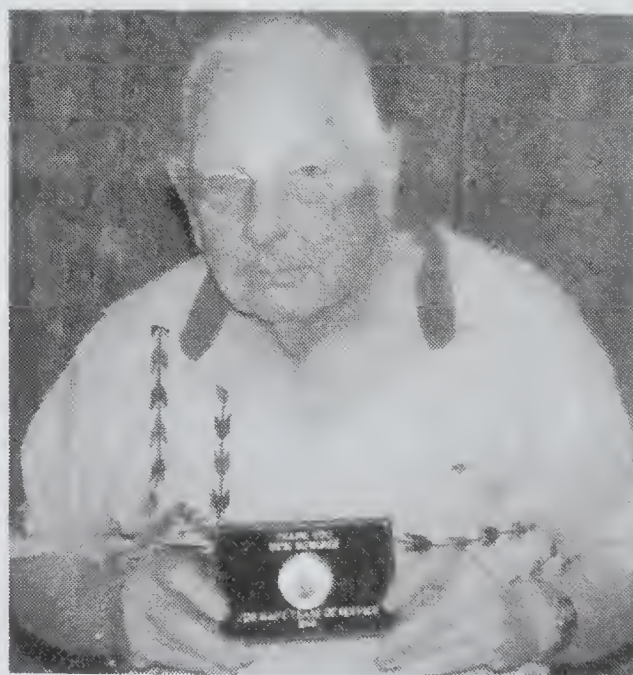
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Racine Numismatic Society

Attendance at the January meeting was lighter than usual because of a snow storm, however, those who attended were in for a treat -- Brett Irick, president of Winsor Coin Club in Canada was visiting in the area and brought a new perspective on Canadian coins and collecting them.

Bill Spencer brought a Canadian dollar coin to acknowledge their visitor's Canadian connection. Brett reported on the FUN show, stating the attendance was greater than the ANA show in Chicago. He also exhibited at the FUN show, taking 2nd place for coins and 3rd place on paper. Brett is running for Central States governor. His profession as an engineer for Ford Motor company was another interesting point brought out during the meeting.

Dick Roskres has stepped down as secretary of the club. Bill Spencer presented him with a silver eagle in a special case, for his many years of service on behalf of the club.



Retiring secretary, Dick Roskres, received a silver eagle in a special case for his many years of service to the Racine Numismatic Society.

Fox Valley Coin Club

303 E. College Avenue
Appleton, WI

57th Annual Spring Coin Show

Sunday, April 1, 2012

9:00 - 4:00

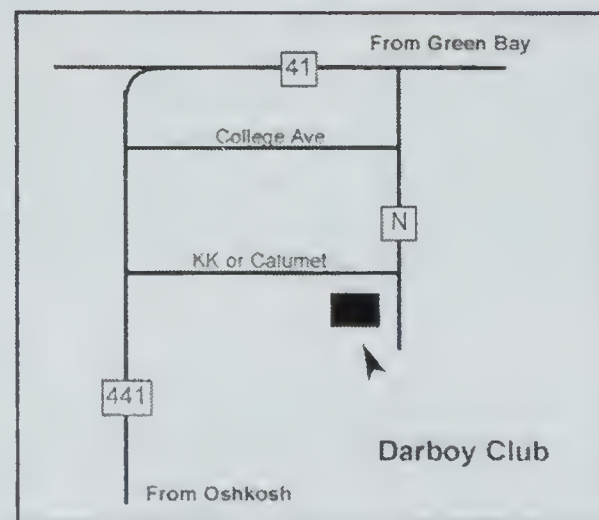
Darboy Club (new location)

N9695 Cty. Rd. N
Appleton, WI



Drawings 3:00 p.m.

U.S. \$5 gold piece 1st Prize
Silver Dollars / Proof Sets
Other valuable prizes



 **Free Admission** 

Madison Coin Club

The main business at the February meeting was an update on plans for the March 25th coin show at the Sheraton Hotel. Flyers were distributed advertising the club's 80th anniversary. They will also be hosting the N.O.W.'s annual show..

A Mystery Dinner is planned for March 24th. All are welcome to the Saturday evening get-together... meet at 6:00 in the hotel lobby and join us for an evening of numismatic fellowship.

* * *

Rhinelanders

The 31st Annual Stamp and Coin Show and Bourse will be held on June 16th at the Crescent Elementary School, 3310 Boyce Drive, just off Hwy. 17 South, Rhinelanders. Hours of the show on Saturday are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with free admission.

Knowledgeable stamp and coin dealers from all over the midwest will host booths, and be available to sell, buy, trade and give appraisals on stamps and coins.

For additional information on the event, contact Larry Marten by calling 715-282-5636 or Bill Julian (715-277-2692). General show information can be obtained by calling the Rhinelanders Chamber of Commerce at 715-362-7464.

* * *



The "Guinness Book of Records" holds the record of being the book most often stolen from public libraries!



Book Nook

Odd & Curious and Traditional Money

Charles Opitz

Is the digital book revolution finally working its way into numismatics? Some new releases show promise. Author Charles Opitz presents one of the first all-digital books on odd and curious money. This CD-ROM publication, which encompasses 843 pages and more than 2,800 color photographs, covers the entire spectrum of these interesting items, including cycee, throwing knives, wampum, cowrie shells, beads, Yap stones, mokos, manilla, salt, tea, playing cards, bullets and axes.

A section of the book details the trips Opitz took to Papua New Guinea in 1973, Trobriand Islands in 1995, and Yap and Palau in 2003. During these adventures, he purchased a plethora of traditional monetary items, many of which were still being used by the natives. The bibliography lists more than 600 books used in his research.

The CD-ROM costs \$5 plus \$3 postage and can be purchased from Opitz at 2471 S.W. 37th St., Ocala, FL 34471.

* * *

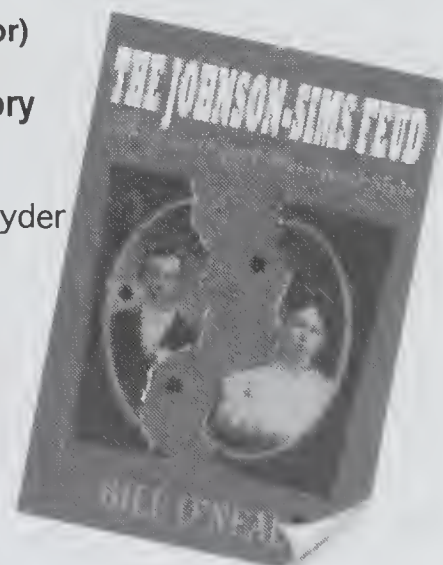
The Johnson-Sims Feud

(Bill O'Neal,
Western History Author)

**"The Best Bank Note Story
I Never Wrote"**

(A book report by Tom Snyder
NOW #2700)

Every hometown bank note has a story. I was searching for more info on my Snyder, Texas note and found



there is a western history author Bill O'Neal who researched and recently wrote a whole non-fiction story about the bank president William – W.A. (Billy) Johnson who signed my note and was also the largest ranch owner and cattleman in Scurry County, Texas. His daughter, Gladys, at age 14, married Ed Sims age 21 who was the son of the other largest ranch owner and cattleman in the area. Billy owned 47 sections of ranch land. A section is 1 mile by one mile and contains 640 acres. That's over 300,000 acres! Patriarch of the other wealthy ranching family Dave Sims owned 39 sections.

The two wealthy families became united, and this match made in heaven went straight to hell. The new family had two daughters. But Ed had a drinking problem and also ran around with women in town and Gladys found out and began flirting and more with the ranch hands. This eventually led to fighting and their divorce. In December 1916, Ed was to pick up their daughters for a pre-arranged Christmas visit. The meeting was on the Snyder town square in front of her father's bank. Ed showed up drunk and a fight ensued. Gladys pulled out her six shooter and fired right in front of her kids and all the busy Christmas shoppers.

Ed was only wounded and became all the more belligerent. Gladys' brother Sid was inside the bank, burst through the door with his shotgun and blasted Ed, killing him. Gladys and her brother were charged with murder, and at the trial were acquitted by Judge Cullen Higgins

who was a good friend of bank president Billy Johnson and also leased a law office on the second floor of the bank building.

The Sims wanted revenge and the family feud was on. One ambush perpetrated the next ambush. Assaults ensued between family members, their ranch hands, plus some hired guns and a lot more people were killed, including Judge Higgins!

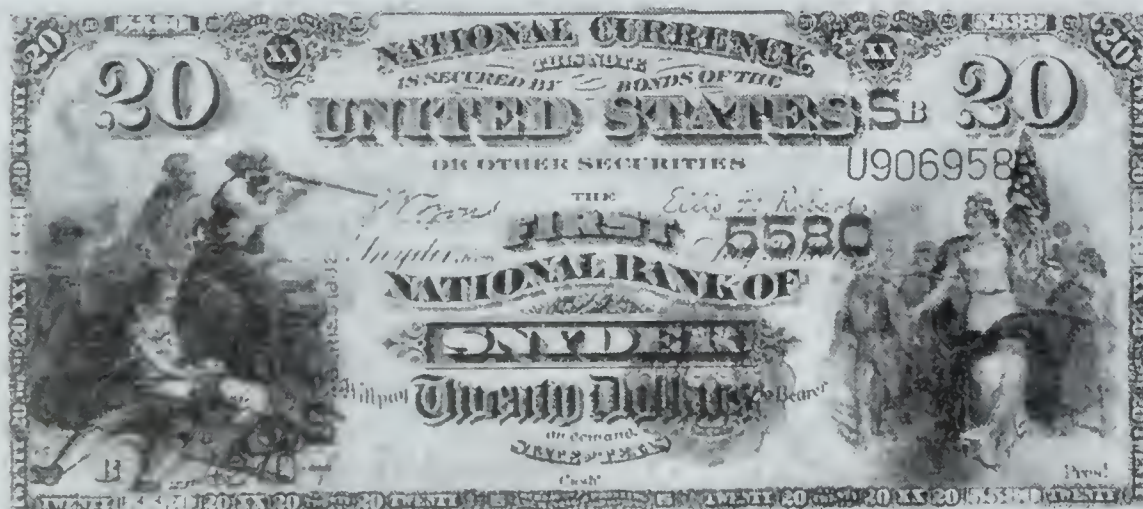
The book details the many encounters. One of Ed and Gladys' daughters, Beverly who lived to be over 100 years old and was still around to narrate the story to the author at her age of 98.

Bank president Billy Johnson hired the two Hamer brothers, Harrison and Frank, who were Texas Rangers as body guards and they lived in Billy's ranch house and accompanied Billy on business trips all around the surrounding counties, taking a few bullets in another ambush near Sweetwater. One of these brothers, Frank Hamer became Gladys' second husband and later in his career brought about the demise of fugitives Bonny and Clyde. Gladys and Frank had a son who was killed in WW2 in the battle for Iwo Jima.

Billy eventually had a nervous breakdown and moved to Los Angeles for a couple years to recuperate. His sons ran the ranch. Billy did finally return and found the feud had fizzled out, but he never was mentally quite right for the rest of his life.

I bought this book, which is a fascinating old west read, and tracked down Bill O'Neal and sent him a scan of my Snyder note. He was very excited about it.

National Bank Note issued by First National Bank of Snyder, Texas Charter 5580. One of just 3 known survivors (all \$20's) in the Tom Snyder collection.



What's New?

El Yunque National Forest Puerto Rico Quarter

The El Yunque National Forest quarter is the first of 2012 and the 11th overall in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program.

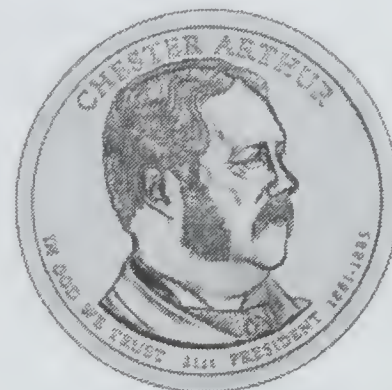
El Yunque National Forest located in Puerto Rico, is the sole tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System. Despite the forest's relatively small 28,000 acre size, it is significant for its immense biodiversity and is popular with visitors for its year-round tropical climate. More than 1 million visitors from all over the world visit the forest each year to sample its eco-tourism pleasures while developing a greater understanding of its ecological importance by walking along the many beautiful trails. It was first established as a national site on January 17, 1903.

The reverse design depicts a Coqui tree frog sitting on a leaf and a Puerto Rican parrot behind an epiphyte plant with tropical flora in the background. The Puerto Rican parrot is a highly endangered species unique to Puerto Rico, and its recovery began with the few birds left in El Yunque. Inscriptions are EL YUNQUE, PUERTO RICO, 2012 and E PLURIBUS UNUM. Design candidates were developed in consultation with representatives of El Yunque National Forest.



Presidential \$1

Chester Arthur
21st President
1881-1885



The son of an Irish-born Baptist minister who had immigrated to the U.S., Chester Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, in 1829. He graduated from Union College in 1848, taught school, was admitted to the bar and practiced law in New York City. Early in the Civil War he served as quartermaster general of New York state.

When Vice President Arthur became President on September 20, 1881, after the death of James Garfield, he was eager to prove that he was above machine politics. He became a man of fashion in both his clothing and his friends and was often seen with the elite of Washington, New York and Newport, Rhode Island. He became a champion of civil service reform, and public pressure, heightened by the assassination of Garfield, forced Congress to cooperate.

In 1883 Congress passed the Pendleton Act, which established a bipartisan Civil Service Commission; forbade levying political assessments against officeholders, and provided for a "classified system" that made certain government positions obtainable only through competitive written examinations. The system protected employees against removal for political reasons. The Arthur administration also enacted the first general federal immigration law. Suffering from a fatal kidney disease, President Arthur nonetheless ran for the presidential nomination in 1884, but he was not successful and died just two years later.

Coinage Legislation Under President Arthur

Act of May 26, 1882 - Authorized receipt of U.S. gold coins in exchange for gold bars

Act of August 7, 1882 - Sundry Civil Appropriation Law for the transportation of silver coins.

No U.S. Mint Directors were appointed by President Arthur.

First Spouse Gold Coin Alice Paul 1881-1885

[U.S. Coins Today]

The Alice Paul First Spouse Gold Coin will be the first strike of four released by the U.S. Mint in 2012 as part of the First Spouse Gold Coin Program. This coin will be struck to both proof and uncirculated condition from 1/2 ounce of 99.99% pure gold for sale directly to the public by the Mint.

When it comes to the First Spouse Gold Coin Program, the Alice Paul strike is an anomaly for the series. She was an early 20th century American suffragist, and never the spouse of a former President of the United States.



Her inclusion in the First Spouse Program was as the direction of Congress as part of the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 which authorized the series. She was chosen for her involvement in the Suffragist Movement which eventually led to the right for women to vote.

Typically, the First Spouse Gold Coins feature the spouses of former U.S. Presidents. However, in circumstances where the President had no spouse while in office, an image of the mythical figure of Liberty is usually used. The exception are the Alice Paul Gold Coins which are issued in association with the Chester A. Arthur Presidency.

United States Mint Closes Public Tour at Philadelphia Plant

Last month the U.S. Mint announced that the public tour at its production plant in Philadelphia closed for renovations. The tour is scheduled to reopen this summer.

Future public tours at the Philadelphia Mint will feature exciting, hands-on interactive displays, updated exhibits and videos. Historical artifacts and presentations will bring the history of the United States Mint to life.

Periodic updates on the renovation, as well as information about the grand opening, will be available at the Mint's website http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/ or call 215-408-0112

The United States Mint, created by Congress in 1792, is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces proof, uncirculated and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver; gold and platinum bullion coins.

Thief Drops Stolen Coin Collection into Coinstar Machine

{Yahoo News article by Eric Pfeiffer The Slideshow submitted by Fred Borgmann}

Police in Oregon are searching for a suspect who allegedly stole a rare coin collection from his own father and traded it in for pennies on the dollar at a local coin-counting machine.

On Christmas day, Dan Johnson, Jr. and two friends allegedly broke into a shed on his father's property, where the coin collection was stowed. The burglars also reportedly stole tools and two safes, which had approximately 50 to 60 pounds of silver and jewelry inside.

So what explains the colossal miscue? Authorities say that the simplest explanation

is the most persuasive one. “The obvious answer is that the crooks were idiots,” Dan Johnson Sr. told local affiliate Fox 12. “To not know the value of what they had taken, just to get pocket change for it. Just really a stupid person. Makes me feel good he was a stupid person and didn’t realize what he had.”

The thieves took the coin collection, worth several thousand dollars, and dropped it into a Coinstar machine, where they received \$450. They were unsuccessful in their attempts to put the silver coins into the machine and eventually took those to a local bank.

“It was an inheritance, which made it even worse because I lost an inheritance that was meant to go forward for my children and grandchildren,” Johnson said of the collection that his son had purloined.

One thing Johnson did not specify is whether one of the actual intended beneficiaries was supposed to be the same son accused of stealing from him.

However, Johnson is now working with the Multnomah County Sheriff’s deputies to sift through the Coinstar machine looking for his collection. The bank is also returning the silver coins to Johnson.

Police have caught two of the suspects involved in the crime, both of whom they say are cooperating in the investigation.

* * *

Secret Service Looks Into Counterfeit Bills

[Desert Sun California article submitted by Gene Johnson]

The arrest of a man suspected of gambling with bogus \$100 bills at the Morongo Casino triggered a counterfeit currency investigation involving the U.S. Secret Service, the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department reported last month.

Movses Dermisyan, 22, of North Hollywood was detained when a dealer in a high-stakes room at the casino suspected him of trying to use five counterfeit \$100 bills while playing blackjack. Sheriff’s Department Sgt. James Burton, said “Dermisyan claimed he only had the five \$100 bills on him, but a subsequent search of his person revealed an additional \$2,100 in fictitious bills.”

Special agents from the Secret Service were asked to help with the investigation “due to the unusually large volume and sophistication of the currency,” Burton said.

Dermisyan was booked at the Larry Smith Correctional Facility, but was not kept in custody, jail records showed. Bail information was unavailable.

* * *

Krause Publications Celebrates 60 Years

Krause Publications, a leading producer of books, magazines, events and online products for the coin and paper money collecting hobbies will celebrate its 60th year in business this year.

In 1952 Chet Krause created “Numismatic News” from his mother’s kitchen table in rural Iowa, Wis. A carpenter by trade, Krause was also a coin collector looking for a way to connect with other collectors around the country.

From the launch of this magazine, the Krause Publications numismatic media portfolio came to include magazines such as Coins, World Coin News and Bank Note Reporter, books like the revolutionary Standard Catalog of World Coins, North American Coins and Prices and U.S. Coin Digest; events like the Chicago International Coin Fair and Chicago Paper Money Expo, and websites like NumisMaster.com.

The company also diversified to include enthusiast media properties in areas such as automobiles, antiques, records, firearms and knives, and hunting.

Krause Publications was acquired by Cincinnati-based F+W Media in 2002, but continues to operate primarily from its Iowa offices.

KP plans to mark its 60th anniversary with a variety of special products and events. More details will be released in the months ahead.

About Krause Publications

Today, Krause Publications, owned by F+W Media, offers more than 40 periodicals. 10 hobby shows, including the Chicago International Coin Fair and Chicago Paper Money Expo, 750 reference and how-to books, and web properties such as NumisMaster.com, the online coin price data base.

Several long-time KP staff members such as Dave Harper, Bob Van Ryzin, Tom Michael or George Cuhaj are available to speak about KP's anniversary. For more information contact Scott.tappa@fwmedia.com.

* * *

Review the Research Cash vs Credit Cards

[reprinted from "Happenings"
Money Matters Financial Straight Talk
by Dave Ramsey]

There have been several studies done in recent years that show people spend less money when buying with cash as opposed to swiping a credit card. One study in particular conducted by MIT and published in Carnegie Mellon magazine, indicated through the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) that the pain centers of the brain are activated when you spend cash. Of course, it depends on the item in question and individual spending patterns as to exactly how much less is spent, but the average is between 12 and 18 percent.

Want some more information?

When McDonald's first began accepting credit cards they conducted a focus group

study in their restaurants on credit card users versus cash users. At that time, the difference was about 42%, meaning that a person using cash bought 42% less in a fast food setting than someone paying for their meal with a credit card. On other, more expensive items, the percentage generally drops. But these studies and others have proven that people spend more when using credit cards instead of cold, hard cash.

See what I mean when I say you can't beat the credit shark at his own game? Even if you're one of the few who pays their credit card bills on time every month, you're still throwing your money away!

* * *

Infantry Soldier Silver \$1 Dollar

{U.S. Mint}

The first commemorative coin of 2012 is the Infantry Soldier silver dollar. The Mint will issue up to 350,000 silver dollar coins in commemoration of the legacy of the U.S. Army infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

The obverse features a modern infantry soldier on rocky ground charging forward and beckoning the troops to follow symbolizing the "Follow Me" motto of the infantry.

The reverse features the crossed rifles insignia, the branch insignia of the Infantry.

Introductory prices of \$49.95 for the uncirculated version and \$54.95 for the proof.



Knight CPMX Sale Features First-Class Offerings

[Krause Publications]

March 8-11

**Crown Plaza O'Hare
5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL**

Lyn Knight's Chicago Paper Money Expo auction is fast approaching and he's already lined up some first-class offering to grace its catalog selections including the Dr. Wallace Lee Collection of Michigan National Bank Notes.

Built over 35 years of collecting, the Lee collection was started by the long-time president of the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan in the mid-1970s with the goal of acquiring the earliest note known from each bank in the best possible condition.

Also featured in the sale is the James (Billy) Key Collection, described as the "most extensive assemblage of solid serial numbers ever formed.



The Key Collection also contains nearly a dozen notes with serials 99999999. Complimenting these are complete sets of 11111111 to 99999999 serials on different denominations of Federal Reserve Notes and Silver Certificates and a rollover pair from 999999999 to 00000001 on \$5 Federal Reserve Notes "of inestimable importance in small size."

Other important offerings include the David Davis Collection of more than 100 of the first 200 chartered National Banks that had charter numbers printed on the notes, with nearly a complete A to Z Brown Back set from Ohio. Michigan Obsoletes are also part of this collection.

For more information about the Knight CPMX auction visit www.lynnknight.com.

* * *

Mint Cuts Mintages on America The Beautiful Coins

[reprinted portions from Numismatic News]

A mintage of 126,700 for each of the 2011 5-ounce silver America the Beautiful bullion coins sounded good at the start, but with sluggish sales in 2011, the U.S. Mint decided to slash output in 2012.

"Right now we penciled 45,000 per release" said Mint Deputy Director, Richard Peterson "and the mintage for the numismatic version of the coins will drop from 35,000 for 2011-dated coins to 25,000 for 2012 pieces.

The initial years of a program see great demand" Peterson said. "It came out strong a few years ago, but now we see decline in the out years."

The Mint recently cut prices of some Mint sets, bags and rolls. Peterson noted "At the beginning of the year we make assumption options on the number of coins we will sell, cost of materials, cost of production etc. At the end of the year, we have to cover those costs going forward and raise prices for the coming year, or we have to lower them."

* * *

Zoroastrianism

[by Fred Borgmann #1475]

Back in the mid 1970's when I worked for Jess Peters, Inc., I was given a small group of Sasanian coins to catalog. I didn't know anything about the coins and had never heard of the Sasanians. The only book on these coins that we could find at that time was in German by Gobl and since I was the only one who could read German, the coins became my project. What really caught my attention was that the reverse depicted a fire altar for a fire worshipping religion.

The Zoroastrian religion was usually referred to and dismissed as the fire worshippers. Both the Christians and Moslems hated Zoroastrianism and the Islamic forces in the 700's nearly exterminated it in areas they conquered.

Founded by the Prophet Zoroaster about 1,000 years before Christianity began, it was first recorded by Herodotus circa 440 BC. The Zoroastrians believe that life is a struggle between good and evil. The God of creation and light (good) is called Ormazd or Ahura Mazda. The God of evil and darkness is Ahriman who tries to undo God's creation. (Sounds like our Christian God and the devil).

They acknowledge the concept of free will and believe that active participation in life through good thoughts, good words and good deeds is required to ensure happiness and keep chaos at bay.

Fire and water are their ritual agents of purification which is why many people think of them as fire worshipers. The religion originated in India and still exists there. Reportedly there are "Fire Temples" in Los Angeles and Paris. Zoroastrianism became the state religion of Persian Empire under the Sasanian Dynasty. Nearly every one of their coins (copper, silver and gold)

has a portrait of the emperor in a fancy ceremonial headdress on the obverse and the fire altar with two attendants on the reverse.

Khurro II (590-628AD) was one of the most powerful of the Sasanians. He defeated the Romans and his eastern neighbors and at the peak of his power ruled most of the Middle East. Constant wars are hard on the population, so Khurro made marriage a legal requirement to increase the population. He also did his duty and maintained a harem of 3,000 concubines and 10,000 slave women.

*A silver drachm of Khurro I
(531-579 AD)*



Numismatic Resources on the University of Wisconsin Campus

[by Dreux J. Watermolen #1755]

*"The boundaries of the university
are the boundaries of the state"*

The Wisconsin Idea

The "Wisconsin Idea," a philosophy embraced by the University of Wisconsin System, holds that university resources should be applied to solve problems and improve health, quality of life, the environment, and agriculture for all citizens of the state. This viewpoint stems from UW President Charles Van Hise's 1904 declaration that he would "never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state." This Progressive-era thinking applied the expertise of the university to social legislation to benefit all citizens. The tradition has guided the university system since and has led to programs such as utility regulation, workers' compensation, and university extension services.

Today the Wisconsin Idea permeates the university's work, fostering broad collaboration and outreach efforts. This same idea can benefit those of us interested in numismatics. Here, I highlight some UW-Madison campus resources that support our pursuits.

Chazen Museum

If you were to seek out numismatic treasures at a university, you might start with the campus art museum. In this respect, the Chazen Museum will not let you down. The Chazen Museum (formerly known as the Elvehjem Museum of Art) collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits works of art and presents related educational programs. The museum possesses two numismatic collections.

Ancient Coins – The collection includes more than 3,800 coins. Of these, 2,899 are Roman bronze imperial coins from the Fourth and Fifth Centuries A.D. According to the museum's website, the donors found these coins as a hoard in the late 1970s. The rest of the collection

includes Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern coins from the Sixth Century B.C. through the fourth Century A.D., as well as some Western Medieval and Byzantine examples. The collection is described in Herbert M. Howe's *Ancient Coins at the Elvehjem Museum of Art*. Of these coins, 193 are illustrated and described in this book, which is available for purchase (\$19.95) through the Chazen Museum's website (www.chazen.wisc.edu/home.htm). Several examples of these coins remain on display in one of the museum's second floor galleries.

Portrait Medals – The collection includes more than 300 European portrait medals. Originally donated by Vernon Hall (UW professor of comparative literature, 1964 to 1980), the collection is particularly strong in Renaissance and Baroque medals. Highlights among the Italian medals include four casts of medals by Pisanello, Amadio da Milano's *Niccolo' III d'Este* Giulio della Torre's self-portrait, and Bombarda's portrait of his wife Leonora. Notable French medals include portraits of Louis XII by Nicolas Leclerc and Jean de Saint-Priest, and several major casts by Guillaume Dupre. The collection also includes examples of work by Hans Reinhart the Elder and Coenraad Bloc. The museum displays 61 of these impressive medals in its 2nd floor gallery. The collection is documented in a 104-page *Catalogue of the Vernon Hall Collection of European Medals* (available for purchase for \$9 from the museum).

University Libraries

The Madison campus is home to more than 40 library collections, the 11th largest research collection in North America. These collections include more than 7.3 million printed volumes, 55,000 serial titles, 6.2 million microforms, and several million items in other formats. Some of these libraries have extensive holdings of interest to numismatists.

Memorial Library – Located at the end of State Street, opposite the State Capitol, you will find Wisconsin's largest library (with more than 3 million volumes). The collections at Memorial emphasize the humanities, social sciences, area

studies, and the history of science. They span more than 350 languages, with some of the best North American collections for German, Ibero-American, and South Asian studies.

Numismatists interested in world coins will find numerous useful references in Memorial's collection, including works on ancient Greek and Roman coins, Medieval European jetons, and the coins of various African, Asian, and South American countries. Some highlights include the more than 50 volumes of *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* (a series of fully illustrated catalogs of coins found in various collections), the four volume *Coins of Ancient India: Catalogue of the coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta*, several editions of *Catalogue of the Coins of South Africa* by A. Kaplan, and *Cat'alogo de Monedas Coloniales* from the Central Bank of Bolivia. The holdings include various foreign language materials like *Min su Qian tu Shuo and Nihon no Koin*, important catalogs of *Chinese and Japanese coins*, respectively. Memorial's holdings also contain many valuable and interesting historic references like *Coins of the Jews* published in 1881 and the 1899 *Catalogue of the Green Coins of Galatia, Cappadocia and Syria*.

Memorial Library welcomes visitors, but a photo ID is required for entrance. The public may use all resources within the library, with the exception of a small first floor computer lab, which is limited to those affiliated with the university.

Historical Society Library and Archives --

The Wisconsin Historical Society's library and archives are housed in the agency's headquarters building (located just across the campus mall from Memorial Library) and are part of the university library system. The collections specialize in Wisconsin and North American history, politics, archaeology, genealogy, government publications, women's studies, and newspapers.

This library will be of particular interest to collectors of U.S. coins and paper money and exonumists. The collections include back issues of N.O.W. News (mostly on microfilm) and *The Numismatist*, nearly complete runs of the Token and Medal Society's publication (*TAMS Journal*),

the American Vecturist Association's transportation token newsletter (*The Fare Box*), and the Civil War Token Society's quarterly (*Civil War Token Journal*). Wooden money collectors will find back issues of *Bunyan's Chips and Timber Lines* in the library's pamphlet collection. Exonumists trying to attribute maverick tokens will benefit from the extensive collection of city directories, telephone listings, and similar resources to aid their research.

Nearly all of the Library's stacks are open to the public for browsing. Wisconsin residents, current students, and university employees may borrow materials in person. The Library accepts UW System photo ID cards, borrowing cards issued by Memorial Library, and WHS Library cards (available free to Wisconsin residents).

Kohler Art Library – Located a short distance from the Memorial and Wisconsin Historical Society libraries – in the same building as the Chazen Museum – the Kohler Library's collection focuses specifically on art, architecture, decorative arts, design, graphic arts, and photography.

Scattered throughout these categories are many titles of numismatic interest. Notably, the holdings include catalogs from exhibitions presented by various commissions, galleries, museums, and art institutes. For example, *Greek Numismatic Art: Coins of the Arthur Stone Dewing Collection*, *Archaic Coins: An Exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum from the Collection of Jonathan Rosen*, and *A Catalogue of the Ancient Greek Coins in the Collections of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh* can be found on the Kohler Library shelves. By carefully searching the library catalog you can even discover exhibit catalogs in which coins are only briefly featured. For example, *The Glory of Baroque Dresden: The State Art Collections Dresden* includes a section on the state coin cabinet. The Kohler Library collection also includes periodicals of interest, including a nearly complete set of *The Medal*, the semi-annual publication of the British Art Medal Society.

Using the Campus Libraries – University libraries share an online catalog, MadCat (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/#books>) which you can use to find items of interest. A key word search on

the term “numismatics” produced 1,981 results listed by title. A similar search for “coins” returned 3,092 catalog records. “Tokens” produced 582 entries and “medals” supplied 1,309. A query for “paper money” generated 832 results and “Bank Notes” yielded 451. You can narrow searches by combining terms or querying by author, title, publisher, etc. For example, a keyword search combining “Wisconsin” and “tokens” produced only 14 relevant catalogue records.

The university’s website provides a map to help you locate the various libraries and lists operating hours for each. I found it helpful to search MadCat from home, compile a list of items I want by library, and then plan my trip to the campus accordingly. Before traveling, you will want to check the library hours for any unexpected early closings.

Unable to visit Madison? No problem. Most items that circulate can be borrowed through interlibrary loan. The librarian at your local public library can assist you in requesting materials. In most campus libraries, computer workstations provide access to MadCat, various journal databases, and internet resources, along with basic Microsoft Office applications. Printing and photocopying are available on a self-service basis. Some libraries have scanners that enable you to scan and save files to a zip disk, flash drive, or CD-ROM. Small files can also be e-mailed. Most printers and photocopiers accept DebitCards only; the cost of printouts is \$0.07 per page and photocopiers generally cost \$0.10 per page. Wall units allow you to purchase or add money to an existing DebitCard.

Conclusion – Clearly, the University Wisconsin houses an abundance of readily accessible resources that can aid our numismatic endeavors. I have introduced only a handful of these and tried to outline their “beneficent influence” for our interests. I hope other Wisconsin collectors will embrace their public university as a resource for continued numismatic appreciation and study.



Everybody’s Irish on March 17th

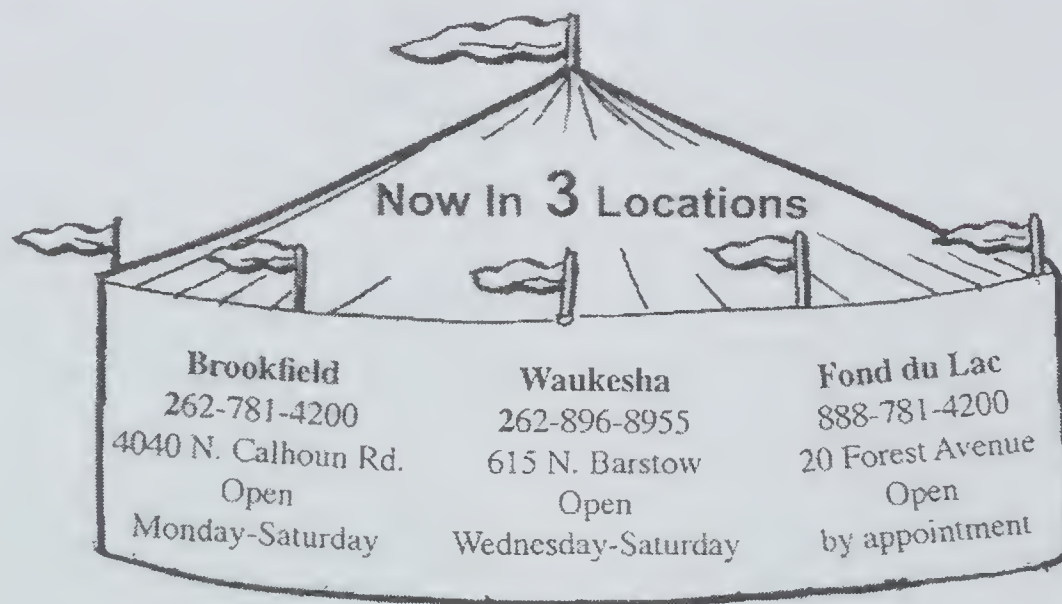
America got the St. Patrick’s Day party started on March 17, 1762 when Irish soldiers serving the English military marched through New York City. The tradition has grown world-wide with parades from Shanghai to Germany and every honorary Dublin town in between.

The shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland, because it was a symbol of rebirth. During Ireland’s struggle for freedom from the English, the Celts wore the shamrock in a silent protest. From there, as knowledge of the shamrock grew, it eventually became a symbol of Ireland itself. Leprechauns, another popular symbol, was based on an Irish belief in “lobaircin”, small people they believed were magical. It was never part of St. Patrick’s Day, however, in the United States, Disney released a movie called “Darby O’Gill and the Little People”. This type of leprechaun was lovable, so American people took him to heart, eventually adding him to St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

Facts about Irish Americans

- America received large waves of European immigrants during the colonial era, the mid-19th century and from 1880 to 1920;
- There are 36.5 million U.S. residents who claim Irish ancestry. This is more than 8 times the population of Ireland itself.
- Those making corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick’s Day should find ample supplies in grocery stores. US farmers produced 41.5 billion pounds of beef and 2.6 billion pounds of cabbage in 2007.
- Lime green chrysanthemums are often seen on lapels and on St. Patrick’s Day tables. Wholesale sales of potted chrysanthemums reached \$40 million in 2007.
- The largest number of leaves found on a clover was 14.

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Shortcuts

(by Gene Johnson #105 LM)

Tokens and medals pertaining to the Suez and Panama canals are uncommon, and the passageways are equally uncommon, arguably the two greatest shortcuts in global geography.

Strategically important in wartime, both canals lop off significant ocean-to-ocean ship travel around the African and South American continents. Suez saves 6,000 and Panama 8,000 miles and the adversary controlling the canals has a huge logistical advantage in naval warship movement.

The two 50 Centimes tokens of this story were issued by French contractors. The Borel and Lavalley company is known to have dug the Southernmost 37-mile section of the canal, from Bitter Lake to the Red Sea. No information on the Baziv company has come to light.

It appears the token coinage of these Suez contractors was similar to the lumber company stores in Wisconsin. Far from developed areas, (civilization) the tokens were to be used by workers at the contractor's store. Also, with a multi national workforce, this could be a "common denominator" money for all nationalities.

The Suez canal has historical roots that go far back into time. Around the year 600 AD, a canal was created that joined the Mediterranean and Red seas, then disappeared evidently overcome by the drifting desert sands (still a problem today).

The construction of the Suez Canal that we know today was done in the period from 1859-1869 and was financed primarily by the French and Ottoman Empire. Like the Panama canal, the Suez has been repeatedly updated, deepened and widened as shipping commerce evolved in size.

One hundred miles in length with no locks, the canal's long-term problems are multi national management and ongoing dredging. The Panama canal, only half the length of Suez, was suggested by discover/explorer Vasco Balboa who saw its possibilities way back in 1517.

In 1900, Panama was one of three sites considered for a canal, Nicaragua was considered the best choice by U.S. Engineers, but the



French, who had created Suez, then set out to build a canal in Panama. It was the bankrupt French effort that prevented the United States from digging a no lock canal in Nicaragua.

When offered, the failed French canal dig in Panama, the penny-wise-pound-foolish U.S. congress bought the lock and dam loaded Panama plan package (2 dams; 6 locks).

The Panama canal, much more complex than the Suez is considered by today's engineers to be a poorly conceived answer to the Atlantic/Pacific ocean tie together.

Completed in 1914, it was closed by landslides in 1915 and 1916, with the official opening delayed for 6 years to 1920. The canal was a political operations mess from day one.

The San Diego Panama California Exposition medal (Hibbler Kappen #426) features an excellent depiction of Uncle Sam, proudly holding his pick and shovel, in front of the completed Panama Canal. The Uncle Sam of the medal was designed by newspaper cartoonist C.F. Berryman.



The reverse is a lockside view of the first ship to pass through the new canal, the Panama Railroad Company steamer, "S.S. Ancon."

Struck in bronze and silver, gilt and silver plated bronze, the medals are popular primarily due to the image of Uncle Sam.

Considering the headache that the canals are politically, (owning part of someone else's homeland) there is an upside. The cost of material delivery worldwide is substantially reduced by the shorter shipping routes.

Bogos: The Dangerous, Controversial and Fascinating World of Counterfeit Coins

Counterfeit coins have always been a part of the world of money and the world of collecting money. Some collectors put their heads in the sand and try to avoid thinking about coin forgeries. Some dealers would prefer that people not talk about them for fear of scaring off collectors. Some people are so impassioned by the issue that they seem to think that studying coin counterfeits is the equivalent of making them, and calling those who study them "devil worshippers" and those who collect them the equivalent of heroin dealers and terrorists.

As irrational as this is, the fact is, counterfeit coins are scary. You can get cheated out of lots of money with them. The coin pictured on page 21 cost its buyer \$3,500 in losses.

The buyer, a dealer who asked to remain anonymous, bought it as a raw coin at a coin show from a collector he had seen before, a guy who he said looked like Newman from the Seinfeld TV show (Newman!). He never saw him again. Before buying it, the dealer showed it to other dealers at the show but nobody noticed anything wrong with it.

Ironically, after buying it, the dealer didn't submit the coin to a respectable grading company, but rather to a bottom-tier service. It came back authentic, as AU-55. Later, another grading company evaluated the coin in its slab and condemned it as being an "Omega" counterfeit, with the same diagnostics as the famous fakes, including tooling marks in the rays above the date (visible only under magnification), but with the famous omega symbol buffed off the eagle's claw. The dealer later donated this piece to the American Numismatic Association.



*"Omega" counterfeit of High-Relief Saint-Gaudens
\$20 gold piece with the omega symbol
buffed off the eagle's claw*

The Lesson

Never buy a raw high-end coin from anybody who looks like Newman! The real lesson is that counterfeit coins such as the above can be interesting to study, and studying them can protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Some people differentiate between the terms "counterfeit" and "forgery," using "counterfeit" to refer to fakes created to circulate and "forgery" to refer to fakes created to deceive collectors, though I'm using these terms interchangeably.

Coin replicas, on the other hand, weren't created to deceive anyone. Sure, they can be schlocky knockoffs, but they can also be interesting variations on a theme, honoring the coin they copy. The U.S. Mint does this, in fact, with its American Eagle series. Counterfeit and replica coins are sometimes called pseudonumia. Here are some pages I've put together about counterfeit and replica coins, ancient and U.S. from early times to more recent:

Counterfeit Coin Detection Primer
Athenian Owl Forgeries
Athenian Owl Replicas
New York Hoard Counterfeits of Apollonia Pontika Drachms
Perion Hemidrachms, Imitations, and Forgeries
Bulgarian School Cherronesos Hemidrachms
Alexander the Great Forgeries
Alexander the Great Replicas

[reprinted from internet <http://rg.ancients.info/bogofs/>]

Freedom and Jeff

*[Here is an endearing story
about a very special eagle and her master
submitted from the internet by Lee Hartz]*

Freedom and I have been together 11 years this summer. She came in as a baby with two broken wings. Her left wing didn't open all the way, even after surgery. It was broken in 4 places. She's my baby.

When Freedom came in she could not stand with both wings broken. She was emaciated and covered with lice. We made the decision to give her a chance at life, so I took her to the vet's office. From then on, I was always around her. We had her in a huge dog carrier with the top off and it was loaded up with shredded newspaper for her to lay in. I used to sit and talk to her, urging her to live, to fight, and she would lay there looking at me with those big brown eyes. We also had to tube feed her for weeks.

This went on for 4-6 weeks, and by then she still couldn't stand. It got to the point where the decision was made to euthanize her if she couldn't stand in a week. You know you don't want to cross that line between torture and rehab, and it looked like death was winning. She was going to be put down that Friday, and I was supposed to come in on that Thursday afternoon. I didn't want to go to the center that day because I couldn't bear the thought of her being euthanized, but I went anyway, and when I walked in everyone was grinning from ear-to-ear. I went immediately back to her cage, and there she was, standing on her own, a big beautiful eagle. She was ready to live. I was just about in tears by then. That was a very good day.

We knew she could never fly, so the director asked me to glove train her. I got her used to the glove and then to jesses, and we started doing education programs for schools in western Washington. We wound up in the

newspapers, radio and some TV. Miracle Pets even did a show about us.

In the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I had stage 3, which is not good (one major organ plus everywhere), so I wound up doing 8 months of chemo. Lost the hair... the whole bit. I missed a lot of work. When I felt good enough, I would go to Sarvey and take Freedom out for walks. Freedom would also come to me in my dreams and helped me fight the cancer. This happened time and time again.

Fast forward to November 2000. The day after Thanksgiving I went in for my last checkup. I was told that if the cancer was not all gone after 8 rounds of Chemo, then my last option was a stem cell transplant. Anyway, they did the tests, and I had to come back Monday for the results. I went in Monday, and was told that all the cancer was gone.

So the first thing I did was get up to Sarvey and take the big girl out for a walk. It was misty and cold. I went to her flight and jessed her up, and we went out front to the top of the hill. I hadn't said a word to Freedom, but somehow she knew. She looked at me and wrapped both her wings around me to where I could feel them pressing in on my back (I was engulfed in eagle wings), and she touched my nose with her beak and stared into my eyes, and we just stood there like that for I don't know how long. That was a magic moment. We have been soul mates ever since she came in. This is a very special bird.

On a side note: I had people who were sick come up to us when we are out, and Freedom has some kind of hold on them. I once had a guy who was terminal come up to us and I let him hold her. His knees just about buckled and he swore he could feel her power course through his body. I have so many stories like that.

I never forget the honor I have of being so close to such a magnificent spirit as Freedom.

*"But they that wait
upon the Lord
shall renew their
strength;
they shall mount up
with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not
be weary;
and they shall walk,
and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31"



* * *

Did You Know...



Banks are among the oldest of our commercial establishments. More than 3,000 of them have been in business for 50 years or more... some have passed the century mark, and a few have served their cities for more than 150 years.

Banks help put students through college in two ways: First by helping their parents set up long-term savings plans while the children are young, and secondly, by offering education loans that help young people get a good start in life.

[reprinted from Bank Notes by Malcom]

The ADVERTISING HALF DOLLAR

*The Liberty Bell displayed
on the half dollar was cast in
Philadelphia in 1753.*



PASS AND STOW
PHILAD^A
MDCCLIII

*The name of the casting firm
was placed on the bell along
with the city and date.*

*This "commercial" appears at
the apex of the break.*

Whose Fault Was It?

Every school child knows that the Liberty Bell is cracked; the crack is almost as famous as the bell itself. But just when and why the crack appeared is a much more esoteric matter. It is sometimes assumed, patriotically but mistakenly, that the bell cracked out of over-enthusiasm while being rung to celebrate the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Somewhat more solid evidence suggests that it broke in 1835, either in July while tolling a knell for Chief Justice John Marshall or on Washington's birthday when a group of small boys pulled too energetically on the rope. One of the boys, Emmanuel Rauch, was interviewed in 1911 and stuck to that story, observing besides that for any funeral the bell's clapper would have been muffled and unlikely to cause damage. In 1846 an attempt was made to put the great bell in ringing order by drilling out the edges of the crack to prevent their rubbing together. This worked about as well as the dentistry characteristic of the period, and when the bell was rung on February 23 of that year (Washington's birthday) having fallen on Sunday) the crack suddenly split open farther. Since then the only sound heard from the Liberty Bell has been a disappointing "thunk" created by tapping it gently with a small mallet on triumphant occasions like the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944.

But why did the bell crack in the first place?

This highly technical question has recently been given extensive study by a professional metallurgist, Dr. Alan R. Rosenfeld, an expert on metal fracture who is associated with the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. He has come up with some interesting facts and explanations. In general, he points out "bells are necessarily made out of brittle metal, and they often break. Even Big Ben is slightly cracked.

The Liberty Bell is a moderately large one, with a lip circumference of 12 feet and a total weight of over a ton. In 1751, when the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania wanted a suitable bell for the newly completed belfry of their State House in Philadelphia, they ordered one from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London -- presumably because they did not trust any foundry in America to design such a large bell. It arrived at Philadelphia in the late summer of 1752. To everyone's surprise and dismay it promptly cracked "by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence, as it was hung up to try the sound."

Pass and Stow

To save a round trip to England two local foundry men -- John Pass and John Stow -- were engaged to recast the bell. While they do not appear to have been experienced bell founders, but they knew that the ideal bronze alloy for a large bell should contain about 77% copper and 23% tin. They also knew that an increase in the proportion of tin improves the tone and resonance of a bell -- one might say its tintinnabulation, but makes it more brittle. They therefore reasoned that their bell, as received from England, probably contained too much tin. With that in mind they made a mold from the original bell to preserve the design, melted down the metal, added one and a half ounces of copper per pound of bronze,

The bell that resulted, however, was judged to have poor tone, and they allegedly tried again -- this time adding about 1/4th per cent silver in order to sweeten the tone ("This" comments Dr. Rosenfeld, "reminds one of the story that the Great Bell of Peking owes its sweet tone to the sacrifice of a maiden who jumped into the molten bronze. Silver does little or nothing to improve the resonance of bell metal, (nor do maidens). When Pass and Stow's second attempt came out of the mold, it was deemed acceptable if not altogether satisfactory, and it was hung in the State House belfry -- its destiny as America's Liberty Bell, of course, undreamed of.

Pass and Stow, perhaps sensing that this was their one chance for renown, added their signature to the bell in raised letters no less prominent than those used for the inscription around the crown: "PASS AND STOW/ PHILAD/MDCCLIII". The crown inscription, chosen when the bell was originally ordered from England, reads: PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF LEV[iticus]. XXV VSX/BY ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE STATE HOUSE IN PHILAD.

This, including the misspelling of Pennsylvania, presumably was reproduced by the mold just as it had appeared on the original bell. Without the inscription, clearly, the bell would never have been adopted by the American people as a prime symbol of the Revolution. As a matter of fact, this was slow in coming; the bell was not commonly known as the Liberty Bell until the 1940's and in 1828 it was even offered for sale by the City of Philadelphia as salvage. (It was refused because it was thought too expensive to move).

.... But back to the crack. Dr. Rosenfeld points out that, quite aside from orthography, there were both visible and invisible defects in the bell. Pass and Stow were not skillful enough to produce a bell with uniformly

smooth surface -- there are numerous pockmarks and some seams. Moreover, modern metallurgical analysis of a small sample has indicated two defects in the metal itself: it still has too much tin and it contains many nonmetallic impurities, globs of lead, and small voids. Any one of these irregularities or a combination of them, could have started the fatal crack under the impact of the bell's clapper.

On top of this, the Liberty Bell had a rough time during the Revolution -- when the British approached Philadelphia in 1777, it was loaded on a wagon and jolted over bad roads to Allentown for safe keeping until 1778. It is said to have been dropped at least once en route, which may have produced an incipient, microscopic crack.

Finally any big bell is subject to metal fatigue -- the gradual deterioration of part of the bell under a repeated number of strikings; and the Liberty Bell's structural defects may have led to a fatigue crack sometime in its first 50 or 60 years of existence. This would not have impaired the tone of the bell until the crack reached a critical size and then fractured rapidly and catastrophically, as apparently it did in 1835. Alternatively, a single overload -- an extra heavy blow from the clapper -- could have fractured the bell all at once.

Could the Liberty Bell be melted down and recast so that it could ring again?

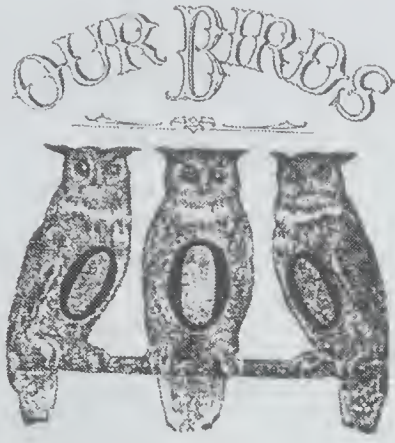
Certainly, our expert says... in fact the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, still in business in London, offered to do just that in 1945. The offer was politely turned down by the federal government. The crack, it would seem, has become as sacred as the bell itself, and to remove it would be like subjecting the honorable battle scars of an old soldier to plastic surgery.

[reprinted from American Heritage]

* * *

Order of Owls

The Order of Owls was founded in 1904 by John W. Talbot and some of his friends in South Bend, Indiana. According to the Constitution and Bylaws, they were formed to assist each other in business, to help each other in obtaining employment, to assist the widows and orphans of their brothers, to give mutual aid to their brothers in any way that they may need and to assemble for mutual pleasure and entertainment.



A publication of the lodge states "The Order of Owls" is a secret society of good fellows, who believe in love, laughter, and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. It does not believe in postponing one's enjoyments until death. We believe that the art of being kind is all this old world needs."

During the organization's heyday in the 1920s, only white males between the ages of 16 and 48 were eligible to join. All applicants were subject to a ballot of the current members. If there were 3 blackballs, the applicant was not accepted. Members were entitled to sick benefits and death benefits after being a member for 6 months. In case of the death of a member's wife, the fellow Owl would receive \$50 to defray her funeral expense. No member, however, was eligible for death benefits on more than one wife during his membership. Any member engaged in any hazardous employment such as working in a powder mill or ammunition factory forfeited any sick or death benefits while so employed.

The local lodge is known as a "nest". The Owls have secret grips, rituals and passwords like many other fraternal organizations of that time. A candidate for membership in the Owls repeats the following obligation:

"I swear in the presence of these Owls that I will abide by and obey all laws and regulations of this order. I will never commit to writing or reveal any of its signs, grips or other secrets, except within

the body of duly and regularly constituted and sitting nest of Owls. I further swear I will not cheat, wrong or defraud a nest of Owls or any Owl, or allow the same to be done if within my power to prevent it. I will give an Owl due and timely notice of any threatening danger and will, if able, render assistance."

He also pledges to keep any secrets given to him by a fellow Owl and to protect the sanctity of an Owl's home. He concludes the oath with: "To all this I pledge my sacred word, may God keep me steadfast."

The Owls really do abide by these rules about not giving out secrets or information because all of my letters and phone calls about information on the Owls or for a complete list of nest numbers and locations went unanswered.

A catch phrase of the Owls, prepared by the founder, stated that "Owls do good, speak kindly, shake hands warmly, and respect and honor their women". Apparently the founder, John Talbot, did not practice what he preached because in 1921 he was convicted of a morals charge involving a nurse in the Owls' hospital and received a sentence of 5 years in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas and a \$5,000 fine. This was his second offense.

Another favorite phrase of the Owls as found on one of their hanging badges is:

"There's so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us it hardly behooves any of us to speak ill of the rest of us".

The Order of Owls has declined from its heyday in the early 1920s when it had 600,000 members in 2,148 nests. The Owls had less than 5,000 in 1999. No known list of nests has ever been found from the Owls or any other source that is known to this author.

For a token to qualify to be from the Order of Owls, it must meet a few requirements. It must either state "Order of Owls," "O.O.O." or have a nest number. If a token reads simply "Owls Club", it does not qualify. This token would probably be



EMAUS Nest of Owls token Good for 5¢ in trade
round, brass, 20mm (varities)

from a private bar or tavern, not necessarily a part of the Order of Owls.

Owls items, in general, are hard to come by. There are only a handful of easily obtainable examples. Besides trade tokens, they also issued other items of exonomia such as a heads/tails flipper, an Indian head elongated penny, a key chain ID tag, hanging badges or ribbons, jewelry and other small items.



Looking for these items can be challenging and fun. I started to collect this series because the items are difficult to find and when I do run across one, it is very satisfying. Half the fun is in the search. If you can add to the token list or nest listing... give me a hoot!

[reprinted from TAMs Journal by Randy Partin]

"Funny Money"



Her Face is Her Fortune

Women of the East often displayed their entire fortune in the form of jewelry. Some facial pieces worn by women of Palestine weighed over 3 pounds.

On special occasions Transcaspian women wore large headresses that weighed 30 pounds.

Opium circulated as currency on Hainan Island in the 19th century.

Almonds were used as change in India during the 16th and 17th century. Forty equaled the Pice.

In 1309 Norway used butter as a medium of exchange -- a unit of measure being 1 basket.

Banknotes in Canada in 1935 were issued in both French and English versions. The present bilingual issue has proved more economical.

On the Nicobar Islands two coconuts tied together made a 'coin'. One coin would buy a coconut shell of rice.

Woodpecker heads were valued by their size 1/2 dollar size was worth a hat full of tobacco to Karok of California.

[Odd & Curious... by Mort Reed]

Coin Club Meetings

Barron County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of each month at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 256, Chetek, WI 54728.

Elgin IL Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at the VFW Post 1307, 1601 Weld Rd., Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 561, S. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Sr. Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 7:00 traders; 8:00 business meeting. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

Fond du Lac Coin Club

Meets the 1st Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

Fox Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Prime Time Club, 11150 Valley Road, Menasha.

Intl. Bank Note Society

Meets the 2nd Saturday at 1 p.m. at North Shore Library, 6800 N. Port Washington Rd., Milwaukee. Contact James Downey 920-487-557, mufelka@itol.com.

Kenosha Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

Lake County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. each month at the Gurnee Police Facility, 100 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL. Contact: George Efsen, 847-975-5338..

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

Madison Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway 608-238-1722.

Manitowoc Coin Club

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa. www.milwaukeeenumismaticssociety.com.

Nicolet Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in Green Bay.

Racine Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant in Sturtevant, WI. Contact Bill Spencer at A.C.S. 1625 Washington Ave., Racine, 53405. Ph: 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg). racinenumismaticssociety@gmail.com.

Richland Center Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Bowling Alley. No meetings June/July/August. Contact Larry Schlafer 608-279-1182.

Rockford Area Coin Club

Meets 6:30 Thursday at North Suburban Women's Club, 6320 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, www.exonumia.com/race.htm. Contact Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O. Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

Sheboygan Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 every other Tuesday at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

South Shore Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. in Milwaukee. Contact Walter Weis 414-384-7966. www.sscmke.org.

Waukesha Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Waukesha Salvation Army offices at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-542-5990. www.waukeshaco-inclub.com.

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Streeter, 715-574-2777..

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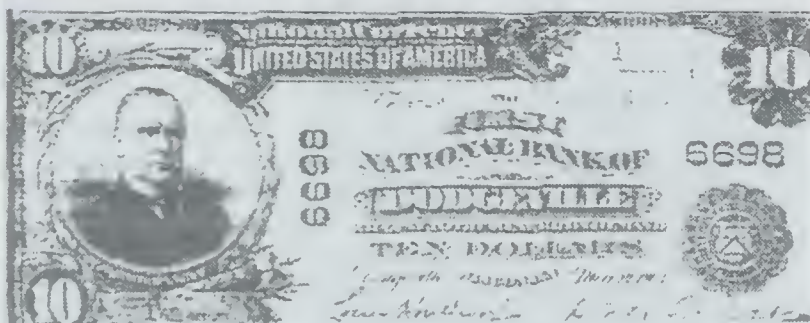
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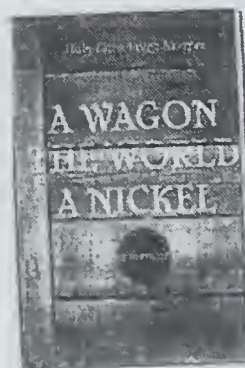
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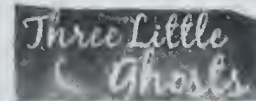
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Please send information on your upcoming show to the NOW News Editor, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, hours, number of tables and your show/bourse chairman's name, address and phone number.

2012

March 11, 2012 - Brookfield

Waukesha Coin Club's 43rd Annual Coin Show at American Legion Hall, 3245 N. 124th St., Brookfield (across from Briggs & Stratton Engine Plant) I-94 to Freeway 45 North. Exit Burleigh St, travel west on Burleigh to 124th St., North on 124th 2 blocks to hall). Hours 9-4 p.m. 25 dealers, \$2 admission, free parking. Contact: www.waukeshacoinclub.com or 262-542-5990.

March 25, 2012 - Numismatists of Wisconsin

NOW and Madison Coin Club's 80th Anniversary Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 50 tables. Contact Jim Essence, Jim's Coins, 702 N. Midvale Ave., Madison, WI. Phone 608-233-2118.

NOW Board mtg. 11:00 a.m.

Mystery Dinner Saturday evening -- Meet at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of Sheraton. Everyone welcome.

March 25, 2012 - Gurnee, IL

Lake County Coin Show at Warren Township High School, 500 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL Hours: 9-3 p.m. 70 tables (35 dealers). Free admission, free parking. Contact George Efsen, PO Box 8519 Waukegan, IL 60079. Phone 847-975-5338.

March 25, 2012 - Springfield, IL

Central Illinois Numismatic Assoc. 23rd Annual Spring Show at Northfield Center I, 3210 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 70 dealer tables. Hours: 9-4 p.m. \$1 admission. Show chm. Steve Butler 217-528-7634.

March 29-31, 2012 - Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Club -- Wisconsin's largest 48th annual coin show at the Wyndham Hotel Airport, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. \$1 admission over 12 years old. First 100 veteran attendees admitted free. Free wooden nickel. Door prizes. Show chm. Walter Weis 414-384-7966; Bourse chm. Joe Bartoszewicz, 414-384-7966 or joedee71@sbcglobal.net.

April 1, 2012 - Appleton

Fox Valley Coin Club's 57th Annual Spring Coin Show at Darboy Club, N9695 County Rd., N. Appleton, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 40 tables. Show contact: James Bayer, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912-1981. Phone: 920-739-1089.

April 1, 2012 - Milan, IL

Quad City Coin Club's 75th Anniversary Coin Show at Milan Community Center, Milan, Camden Park, Rt. 67, Milan, IL Hours: 9-4 p.m. Free admission. Bourse Chm. John Brixey, Quad City Coin Club, 1553 39th St., Rock Island, IL 61201. Ph. 309-788-8726.

April 15, 2012 - Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club at Howard Johnson Inn & Conference Center, 2101 North Mountain Road in Wausau. Hours: 9-4 p.m. Contact Thad Streeter 715-574-2777.

April 18-21, 2012 - CSNS

Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, at Schaumburg Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL

May 6, 2012 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's show at Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 39 tables. Bourse chm. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313.

May 12, 2012 - Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Coin & Stamp show at Sheboygan Falls Municipal Hall, 375 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls. Hours: 9-3:30 p.m., 40 tables. Bourse chairman: Ed Rautmann, P.O. Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082. Phone: 920-893-5864.

May 10-12, 2012 - ANA

National Money Show at Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO.

May 27, 2012 - Elgin IL

Memorial Weekend Coin Show at the Elgin IL Holiday Inn, (1/4 mile North of I-90 on Rt. 31). Hours: 9-3:30 p.m. 50 tables, free admission & free parking. Sponsored by the Crystal Lake, IL Coin Club. Co-chairs Dave H. 815-814-1255; Fred D. 630-677-3866; Bobby G. 630-479-2333.

June 16, 2012 - Rhinelander

Annual Stamp and Coin Show will be held at the Crescent Elementary School, 3310 Boyce Drive, Rhinelander. Hours: 9:00-4:00 p.m., free admission. Contact Larry Marten 715-282-5636.

June 23 -29 and June 30-July 6, 2012

ANA Summer Seminar at Colorado Springs, CO. Phone 719-482-9849.

July 22, 2012 - Springfield, IL

Central Illinois Numismatic Assoc. 23rd annual Summer Show at Northfield Center I, 3210 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 70 dealer tables. Hours: 9-4 p.m. \$1 admission. Show chm. Steve Butler 217-528-7634.

August 7-11, 2012 - ANA

ANA World's Fair of Money at Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA.

August 19, 2012 - Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac Coin Club's annual show at the Holiday Inn, 625 West Rolling Meadows Drive, Fond du Lac, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m. Bourse Chm. Randy Miller, 920-231-6161.

August 26, 2012 - Madison

Coin Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 55 tables. Show contact: John Krueger, 123 W. Cook Street, Portage, WI 53901. Phone 608-745-3330.

September 30, 2012 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's Annual Coin Show at American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 75 tables, \$1 admission. Show chair. Tom Casper 414-425-5444; tcasper57@hotmail.com.

October 18-20, 2012 - ANA

National Money Show at Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX.

October 20, 2012 - Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Coin & Stamp Show at Sheboygan Falls Municipal Hall, 375 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls. Hours: 9-3:30 p.m. 40 tables. Bourse chairman, Ed Rautmann, P.O. Box 907, Sheboygan WI 53082. Phone: 920-893-5864.

November 4, 2012 - Madison

Coin show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 55 tables. Show contact: John Krueger, 123 W. Cook Street, Portage, 53901. Phone 608-745-3330.

November 11, 2012 - Springfield, IL

Central Illinois Numismatic Assoc. 23rd annual Fall Show at Northfield Center I, 3210 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 70 dealer tables. Hours: 9-4 p.m. \$1 admission. Show chm. Steve Butler 217-528-7634.

2013**April 4-6, 2013 - Milwaukee**

South Shore Coin Show at Wyndham Hotel Airport, 4747 South Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Show contact: Walter Weis 414-384-7966.

2013 - Numismatists of Wisconsin
at Sheboygan Falls.

August 2013 - ANA

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